Committee on Konkan Railway Project

1301. SHRI SUNDER SINGH BHANDARI:
SHRI RAM RATAN RAM:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 9 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th July, 1992 and state:

(a) the names of the Members of the Committee; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Railways was not consulted on the appointment of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The names of Members of the Committee are given in the statement. (See below).

(b) The Committee constituted includes representation of the Ministry of Railways. Prior to the constitution of the Committee, it had been indicated to the Ministry of Railways about the setting up of such a Committee.

Statement

Names of memmbers of the committee

1. Dr. (Mrs.) Kamla Chowdhry, New Delhi.
2. Shri V.A. Pai Panandikar, Director, Centre for policy Research, New Delhi.
3. Dr. J.B. Sardesai, Director (Projects), Ecologist, Wildlife Protection Group, Goa,
4. Ms. Usha Albuquerque, New Delhi.
5. Shri Shyam Chainani, Bombay Environmental Action Group, Bombay.
6. Shri Manohar Shetty, Editor, 'Goa Today', Panaji, Goa.
7. Director General, Archaeplogical Survey of India, Janpath, New Delhi.
8. Dr. B. N. Desai, Director, National Institute of Oceanography, Goa.
9. rD. Kesavan Nair, Director, National Transportation Planning and Research Centre, New Delhi.
10. Dr. E.F.N. Ribeiro, Director, School of Planning & Architecture, New Delhi.
11. Shri M. Parabrahmam, Adviser (RE), Ministry of Environment & Forests, New Delhi-3.
12. Representative of the Ministry of Railways.
13. Representative of State Government of Goa.
14. Representative of State Government of Karnataka.
15. Representative of State Government of Maharashtra
16. Shri T. George Joseph, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests, NEW DELHI.

AIDS virus

1302. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased state:

(a) whether HIV (AIDS) virus can be destroyed in boilling water;

(b) if not, what are the reasons for starilising through boiling the needles of the syringes in hospitals, dispensaries, medical clinics and dental clinics; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. HIV is a very labile virus and is destroyed within 20-30 minutes in boiling water.

Sterilizing needle and syringes by boiling in health care settings is the simplest and most reliable method of killing disease causing organisms including HIV.

(c) Since 1988, the Govt. has issued from time to time, guidelines for prevention and control of HIV inection in health care settings. Recently, the guidelines have been revised and issued to all State/U. T. Govts. and Health care establishments.

Further, training and orientation programme for prevention and control of HIV infection in health care settings are being conducted since 1989 in different parts of the country.

The State Govts. have been requested to ensure that guidelines for prevention and control of HIV infection are followed in the health care settings.

Spreading of HIV by mosquitoes

1303. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that mosquitoes can spread the HIV (AIDS) germs;

(b) whether Government have made any study and research in this regard; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) No. There is no documented evidence to show that HIV is being spread by mosquitoes.

(b) and (c) No study in this regard has been done in India, as studies have already been conducted in other countries, especially in U.S.A. which have revealed that HIV is not transmitted by mosquitoes. Moreover, epidemiological data on HIV clearly point to the fact that AIDS is not a mosquito-borne disease.

Expenditure on AIDS in India

1304. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the basis of the estimates made by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on the number of AIDS infections in India;

(b) whether Government are aware that the cost of fighting AIDS including medical treatment and care would come to around $ 1.3 billion by the year 2000; and

(c) if so, whether Government would be able to spend such a huge amount to deal with the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c) Estimates of the number of AIDS infection in India have been made by WHO on the basis of HIV positivity rates among the groups practising at high risk behaviour namely commercial sex workers (CSWs), clients of CSWs, blood donors and recipients and intravenous drug users. Full time hospital based care and treatment of HIV positive and AIDS patients with state of the art technology and medication against all possible opportunistic infections is an extremely expensive proposition. However, our strategy is family based and community based (as advocated by WHO) treatment and care for HIV and AIDS patients in